

TO: Chair and Members

DATE: March 13, 2014

**SUBJECT: Principles for Juvenile Justice System
Development in California.
Requesting Approval.**

AGENDA ITEM: O

**ACTION: X
INFORMATION:**

RESOURCE PERSON: Shalinee Hunter

Summary: The attached Principles of Development statement was adopted by the Juvenile Justice Standing Committee (JJSC)—initially on October 30, 2013 and subsequently as revised on February 13, 2014 at the request of the BSCC management team. The revised Principles Statement is now being presented to the BSCC Board for review and approval.

The Statement is issued in part to fulfill the Scope of Work for the Juvenile Standing Committee as adopted by the Board in 2013. Under that Scope of Work, the JJSC is charged with identifying “leadership, program and policy issues deemed worthy of review” and “making sure that the Board is aware and fully-informed on best practices in the field, emerging state-national juvenile justice developments that deserve BSCC attention and other matters likely to enhance the capacity and productivity” of BSCC. Stakeholders on the JJSC include representatives from the courts, probation, prosecution, law enforcement, education, health/mental health, legal advocacy, youth service and related disciplines.

The members of the JJSC felt that it was important to adopt a statement reflecting contemporary principles and practices underlying juvenile justice law, practice and policy both in California and throughout the United States. The Committee’s ten point “Principles of Development” reflects policies and best-practices that have become widely accepted in juvenile justice professional and stakeholder communities based on recent research, developmental science, legislative changes and state and federal court decisions.

The Committee believes that by adopting this statement, the Committee and the Board together can demonstrate that BSCC is aligned with state and national principles, legal developments and best-practices that now serve as guideposts for juvenile justice system activity and program development. The statement also serves to implement BSCC’s statutory mission to “provide leadership, coordination and technical assistance” on adult and juvenile criminal justice matters and to provide “public information and data about community corrections policies, practices, capacities and needs”. The statement, if approved, would be posted on the Juvenile Justice Standing Committee section of the BSCC website.

The Principles were first adopted by the JJSC at its October 2013 meeting. They were scheduled to go to the January 2014 Board meeting for review but were removed from the Board agenda and returned to the committee by the management staff. The management team expressed concern that the principles might be subject to the interpretation that they impose new requirements, regulations or mandates on state or local juvenile justice agencies. The Committee was asked to provide clarification on this point. As a result, a preamble was added to make it clear that the principles are

intended to serve as a summary of best-practices and modern legal concepts in the field, and that they do not state or seek to impose any new mandate, regulation or requirement on any agency or provider. With this added language, the principles were re-adopted by the Committee with minor text changes at the February 2014 meeting.

In the March meeting, the Board will also be presented with overviews of the work of both the Juvenile Justice Standing Committee and the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The Principles Statement offers a framework of modern law and practice for the deliberations and for future recommendations that may come out of both committees. Both committees have expressed their desire to keep full Board well-informed on the juvenile justice side of the community corrections agenda as a basis for related construction, funding and other decisions that come before the Board from time to time.

Recommendation/Action Needed:

Approve the adoption of the JJSC principles

Resource Person: Shalinee Hunter, Field Representative; Shalinee.hunter@bscc.ca.gov or (916)-322-808.

Attachments:

- A. Principles of Juvenile Justice System Development in California